



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/698,200	10/30/2000	Tadashi Ohashi	1341.1066/JDH	6729

21171 7590 12/19/2003

STAAS & HALSEY LLP  
SUITE 700  
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

WON, YOUNG N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/698,200

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

Examiner

Young N Won

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-17 have been examined and are pending with this action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 2 recites the limitation "said plural component information storage servers" in line 17 on page 42 of the disclosure. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, but claim 1 never recites "plural component information storage servers".

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10-12, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Natarajan et al. (US 6505244 B1).

INDEPENDENT:

As per claims 1, 10, 16, and 17, Natarajan teaches of a component managing control system and a computer readable recording medium for recording a component -managing control program applicable to a registration client (see col.2, lines 9-12 & 24-26) comprising: a component information storage server (see Fig.2, #252 and Fig.5B) which stores a component information with respect to a wholeness of a hardware and a firmware to compose a product (see col.13, lines 13-32); a rule information storage server (see Fig.2, #254 and Fig.5C) which stores a rule information (see col.14, lines 2-32) upon registering or making reference to/receiving said component information in said component information storage server (see col.13, lines 51-56); and a registration or reference/receipt client (see Fig.2, #202), which is connected to said component information storage server and said rule information storage server via a network, which registers said component information in said component information storage server on the basis of said rule information, which is derived from said rule information storage server (see col.5, lines 38-47 and col.19, lines 18-38).

DEPENDENT:

As per claim 2, Natarajan further teaches wherein said plural component information storage servers are provided and plural and various component information is distributed and stored in said plural component information storage servers, respectively (see col.13, lines 21-29).

As per claims 5 and 11, Natarajan teaches of further comprising rule verification means for verifying a deliberation result of a written rule, which is a source of said rule information, and registering rule information in response to the verification result in said rule information storage server (see col.16, lines 34-45).

As per claims 6 and 12, Natarajan teaches of further comprising agent means for deducing said rule information (see col.8, lines 21-31 and col.13, lines 46-49).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 4, 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natarajan et al. (US 6505244 B1) in view of Hemphill et al. (US 6167448 A).

As per claim 3, Although Natarajan teaches of registering said component information in said component information storage server (see claim 1 rejection above), he does not explicitly teach of further comprising a meta information storage server, which is connected to said network, which stores a meta information having a layered construction of at least component information; wherein said registration client registers said meta information in said meta information storage server. Hemphill teaches of a meta information storage server, which is connected to said network, which stores a meta information having a layered construction (see col.6, TABLE 1) of at least component information (see col.1, lines 38-52); wherein said registration client registers said meta information in said meta information storage server (see col.4, lines 8-11). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Hemphill within the system of Natarajan by implementing a meta information storage server for registering meta information within the component managing control system because meta language such as XML guarantees delivery of message and provides more flexible method of delivering management events (see Hemphill: col.1, lines 24-30).

As per claim 4, Natarajan does not explicitly teach wherein said registration client registers said component information, which is described by an XML. Hemphill teaches wherein said registration client registers said component information, which is described by an XML (see col.1, lines 38-52 and col.8, line 66 to col.9, line 25). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Hemphill within the system of Natarajan by implementing

describing component information by XML within the component managing control system because meta language such as XML guarantees delivery of message and provides more flexible method of delivering management events (see Hemphill: col.1, lines 24-30).

As per claims 9 and 15, Natarajan does not explicitly teach of further comprising replacing means for repeatedly replacing DTD information of said component information, which is described by the XML, by using a predetermined method so that the evaluation value in said agent means becomes maximum or minimum, when the evaluation value does not satisfy a target value. Hemphill teaches of further comprising replacing means for repeatedly replacing DTD information of said component information, which is described by the XML, by using a predetermined method so that the evaluation value in said agent means becomes maximum or minimum, when the evaluation value does not satisfy a target value (see col.8, line 66 to col.9, line 45). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Hemphill within the system of Natarajan by implementing replacing DTD information of said component information, which is described by the XML, by using a predetermined method so that the evaluation value in said agent means becomes maximum or minimum, when the evaluation value does not satisfy a target value within the component managing control system and program because Hemphill teaches that DTD allows the user to constrain contents and structures and that additional tags may be included to compensate for unanticipated information.

5. Claims 7, 8, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natarajan et al. (US 6505244 B1) in view of Deleo et al. (US 6556951 B1). Natarajan teaches all the limitations of claims 7, 8, 13, and 14, except wherein said agent means evaluates the deduction result of said rule information by a fuzzy detection from 0 to 1. Deleo teaches of an agent means evaluating the deduction result of said rule information by a fuzzy detection from 0 to 1 (see Fig.20; col.15, lines 3-11; and col.16, lines 38-57). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Deleo within the system of Natarajan by implementing evaluating the deduction result of said rule information by a fuzzy detection from 0 to 1 within the component managing control system and program because Deleo teaches of real time error determination of data elements within a neural network (see abstract), and Natarajan teaches that his system can be implemented with other artificial intelligence technologies such as neural networks (see col.14, lines 30-32).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Young N Won whose telephone number is 703-605-4241. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 8AM-6PM.



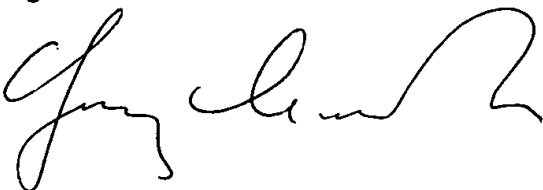
Application/Control Number: 09/698,200  
Art Unit: 2155

Page 8

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T Alam can be reached on 703-308-6662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Young N Won



December 10, 2003



**HOSAIN ALAM**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**